

Opening Statement of Chairman Bob Latta
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
“Subcommittee Markup”
June 13, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

Good afternoon. Today the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee will take up the State of Modern Application, Research, and Trends of IoT Act or the SMART IoT Act. I'd like to first recognize my colleague, the Gentleman from Vermont – Mr. Welch – for his willingness to work across the aisle on this very important bill. Together, we have developed bipartisan legislation that will act as an important first step and foundation for future policy on IoT issues.

This began with our work together in forming the IoT Working Group last Congress and has continued through multiple hearings in this subcommittee and showcases of IoT technologies in many of our colleagues' districts.

Through numerous meetings with stakeholders and discussions with small businesses, manufacturers and farmers back in my District, it is clear that IoT solutions offer enormous potential. IoT solutions will not only benefit consumers and businesses by improving productivity and efficiency, this technology also promises to greatly improve the lives of so many. Whether we are talking about automotive technological advancements that will vastly improve roadway safety and save lives or smart city applications that will improve community services, one thing is clear: we have the chance to benefit from a more connected world. But, to realize these benefits, we must ensure the government does not get in the way.

We have heard from many stakeholders working on these important issues that because IoT is increasingly becoming ubiquitous, it is very difficult to know who is doing what – both in the federal government and in the private sector. A lack of collaboration and dialogue presents the problem of creating unnecessary barriers to innovation – something we cannot afford to do if we want to unleash the power of IoT in the United States. In response to these factors, we developed the SMART IoT Act.

The SMART IoT Act directs the Secretary of Commerce to create a compendium that answers a very important question at this stage in IoT development: who is doing what. At the federal level, this will help promote interagency discussions

and help avoid conflicting or duplicative obligations or requirements that may slow innovation and progress. At the industry level, this will help innovators and businesses know how entities are developing, using and promoting use of IoT solutions. It will also highlight industry-based efforts to self-regulate and provide industry with a one-stop-shop for a compilation of industry-based standards – both ones already in effect and those currently being developed.

The SMART IoT Act is a critical first step to future IoT policy efforts. As we serve on this subcommittee, we have the opportunity to look 5 years, and farther, into the future to see where technology is headed. We have an obligation to do what we can to promote innovation, American competitiveness and technological advancements that benefit consumers. The SMART IoT Act does just that. I'd encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill today.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have signed on as cosponsors thus far and I am happy to add more before the full committee markup. I again want to thank Mr. Welch for his hard work on this very important issue, and all members of the subcommittee for their commitment to work across the aisle.

Thank you.